

REMARKS

The Applicant appreciates the time and consideration that the Examiner has provided in reviewing this application. By the above amendment, claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Claim 6 has been canceled, without prejudice.

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JUNE 14, 2006

In the Office Action dated June 14, 2006, the Examiner objected to claim 1 because the Examiner found the term "or the like" to be a relative term which rendered the claim indefinite. Next, claims 1-3, 9, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Hirano (U.S. Patent No. 6,447,445). The Examiner also stated that claims 6-8, 10, 13 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the recognition of allowable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3 and 6-14 as amended are allowable over all of the cited art and that the present amendment should be entered.

First, Applicants have amended claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the term "or the like" has been deleted. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to claim 1.

Next, as advised by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of objected to claim 6. As a result,

claim 1 is now allowable because it contains the allowable subject matter of claim 6. Applicants have also amended claim 7 to depend from the now allowable claim 1. Applicants have canceled claim 6.

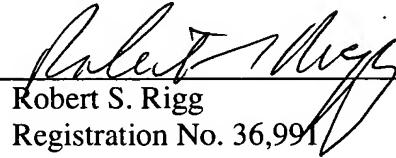
Because claim 1 is patentable, claims 2-3, and 7-14 are patentable as dependent from patentable base claims. *See MPEP § 2143.03; In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejections.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, and in view of the remarks set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the application and the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration and the timely allowance of all pending claims. The Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments have not added any new matter to the application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees (or credit any overpayment) associated with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 13-0019. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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